

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01373 151930Z

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 (ISO) W

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R 151900Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6865

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 1373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR-US

SUBJECT: U.S.-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS

REF: A. STATE 9349; B. STATE 9520

1. WE DELIVERED TO DE MONTBRIAL THIS MORNING (JANUARY 15) LETTER CONTAINED IN REF A. WE MET WITH CAP STAFF IN AFTERNOON AND RECEIVED THEIR REACTION TO PROPOSALS IN LORD'S LETTER.

2. FRENCH ACCEPT WITH PLEASURE INVITATIONS TO DINNER FEBRUARY 2 AND LUNCH FEBRUARY 3. THEY ARE DELIGHTED WITH ALL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS AS DESCRIBED IN THE LETTER. WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED IN THE LETTER, FRENCH SUGGEST ONE CLARIFICATION AND ONE CHANGE:

A. CLARIFICATION - FRENCH BELIEVE THAT DISCUSSION OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AS INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MORE SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN WHAT DE MONTBRIAL DESCRIBED IN HIS LETTER (REF B) AS "SCENARIOS FOR THE EVOLUTION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE." CONSEQUENTLY, FRENCH WOULD PREFER TO SEE THAT AGENDA ITEM DEVELOP INTO DISCUSSION FOCUSING ON SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN ON INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 01373 151930Z

B. CHANGE - FRENCH FEEL THAT PLACING ENTIRE LOAD

ON FRENCH OF LEADING DISCUSSION OF MORNING AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 3 WILL PROVE UNWORKABLE. FRENCH WOULD PREFER TO SEE U.S. TAKE LEAD ON MIDDLE EAST. PERSIAN GULF, AND INDO-CHINA ITEMS. FRENCH WOULD TAKE LEAD ON INDIAN OCEAN, SOUTHERN AFRICA (INCLUDING ANGOLA) AND NORTH AFRICA (E.G. ALGERIA), A NEW ITEM. IN ADDRESSING THESE THREE AREAS, FRENCH WOULD PLAN TO INTERRELATE THEM AS KEY AREAS SUBJECT TO POTENTIAL SOVIET PENETRATION.

3. REGARDING SEPARATE MEETING ON DEFENSE AND SECURITY ISSUES ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 4, FRENCH HOPE THAT DISCUSSION WILL TOUCH ON STANDARDIZATION, THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR SITUATION IN EUROPE (PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO MBFR), NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, AND THE GENERAL MILITARY SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER.

4. OUR COMMENTS ON STATUS, ROLE, SIZE AND CURRENT MAJOR INTERESTS OF CAP, AS WELL AS ON THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR THE PLANNING TALKS FOLLOW BY SEPTELS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS01373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760016-1024
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760154/aaaabvpw.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SP
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 9349, 76 STATE 9520
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-FRENCH PLANNING TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, US, (LORD, WINSTON), (DE MONTBRIAL, THIERRY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006